

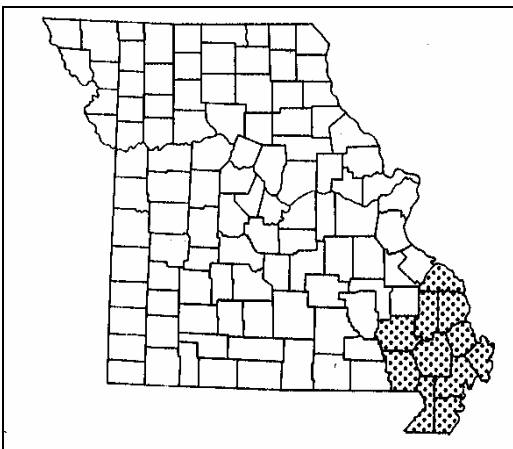
Yellow Poplar

Liriodendron tulipifera L.

Yellow poplar is also known as poplar, tulip tree, tulip poplar and whitewood. The name whitewood comes from the thick band of white sapwood found in rapidly growing second growth trees. Though known in the trade as yellow poplar, the tree is not a poplar at all, but is a member of the magnolia family. It grows in a few counties in the hills surrounding the Bootheel in southeast Missouri. Yellow poplar grows best on rich, deep, moist soils in the coves and valleys associated with northern red oak, black gum, ash and basswood.

The sapwood is off-white to grayish white, while the heartwood is variable in color, ranging from clear yellow to tan, greenish brown or olive-brown, and is frequently marked with shades of purple, dark green, blue and black. The bark is gray to brown, thin and smooth on young trees, becoming thick and deeply furrowed with long, narrow plates on older trees. The wood has no characteristic odor or taste when dry, but a sour smell when wet. Usually straight-grained, it is moderately light, not strong, but easy to machine and work. It glues well, and takes and holds paint exceptionally well. The growth rings are distinct, delineated by a whitish line of terminal cells. The wood is diffuse porous. It dries easily and is quite stable when dry.

The wood has been used for almost every conceivable purpose, limited only by sufficient strength for some items. It is used for furniture, interior trim and moulding, boxes and crates, caskets, musical instruments, toys, woodenware and veneer for berry boxes and plywood. Outstanding as an all-purpose wood for the home workshop, its use is only restricted but its limited range in Missouri, for only a few sawmills have it available.



Szopa

